promote the interests of farmers by placing their problems before the Government from time to time.

Development of Milch Cattle

†4644. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the possibilities of the development of milch cattle in the country;

(b) if so, the annual turnover of this industry, so far, along with the percentage of contribution of this industry towards the Gross Domestic Product of the country; and

(c) the number of part time and full time persons involved in this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) For genetic upgradation of bovine population, a 100% centrally sponsored scheme "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB)" is in operation since October, 2000.26 States and 2 Union Territories are participating/implementing the scheme. Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 202.50 crores has been released to these States/UTs till date. In order to prevent outbreak of the diseases in livestock, funds are provided to States under the scheme, "Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD)" on 75:25 (centrahstate) sharing basis.

(b) The value of output from livestock sector in the national economy during 2003-04 at current prices was Rs. 1,64,509 crores and the percentage contribution of this sector towards the Gross Domestic Product of the country was 5.22% during 2003-04 at current prices.

(c) As per the National Sample Survey Organisation, 55th Round survey, 1999-2000, the estimated workforce in this sector was 11 million in principal status and 8 million in subsidiary status.

Setting up of a manure/fertilizer factory in Khagaria

†4645. SHRI VIDYA SAGAR NISHAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the land from East

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.